

MACOMB COUNTY

1 day, 1 trial, 188 jurors

The 1-day, 1-trial jury system started Tuesday in Macomb Circuit Court with a near-record turnout of prospective jurors, Macomb County Clerk Carmella Sabaugh said.

The kickoff of the 2-month test run of the new system resulted in 188 people responding to jury summonses, the second-best attendance in county history and far above the average response of 150 people, according to the clerk's office.

Sabaugh attributed the turnout to the new system, which allows people to serve only one day as a juror if they are not picked for a trial. Under the prior system, jurors had to return for four days whether or not they were chosen, usually starting on Tuesdays.

One-day one-trial, pushed by Sabaugh and Chief Judge Antonio Viviano, will save county taxpayers \$15,000 per year because jurors are paid \$25 for their first day and \$40 each for subsequent days. If attendance remains better than in the past, further savings will be realized because fewer summonses will have to be issued.

Two other improvements to encourage jury attendance have been made in recent years. Free bus tickets for the Suburban Mobile Authority for Regional Transportation are being provided to some jurors, and jurors are now allowed to request books over the Internet from the Mount Clemens Public Library.

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